

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

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Sports shorts

Little League team stripped of national title

CHICAGO (AP) — A Little League team that captured the attention of the nation and the hearts of its hometown was stripped of its national title Wednesday after an investigation revealed that team officials had falsified boundaries so they could add ineligible players to the roster.

Only last summer, the all-black Jackie Robinson West team was the toast of Chicago and was honored with trips to San Francisco and to the White House.

But the sport’s governing body announced that team officials had engaged in a Little League version of political gerrymandering. Instead of politicians redrawing district maps to pick up votes, it was local league officials who changed the boundaries that determined where players must live.

All of the team’s victories were thrown out, meaning that the wins will be awarded to other teams. Mountain Ridge Little League, the team from Las Vegas that lost to Jackie Robinson West in the national championship game, will be awarded the title.



Legendary coach Jerry Tarkanian passes away

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Hall of Fame coach Jerry Tarkanian, who built a basketball dynasty at UNLV but was defined more by his decades-long battle with the NCAA, died Wednesday after several years of health issues.

He was 84.

Tarkanian put the run in the Runnin’ Rebels, taking them to four Final Fours and winning a national championship in 1990.

His son, Danny Tarkanian, says his father fought an infection since he was hospitalized Monday in Las Vegas with breathing difficulty.

His teams were as flamboyant as the city, with light shows and fireworks for pregame introductions and celebrities jockeying for position on the so-called Gucci Row courtside.

“We’re not rolling out the red carpet around here for a guy that’s playing against us Game One. He’s going to have to figure out where to work out.”

— Beau Baldwin

Eastern Washington football coach on decision not to allow Vernon Adams to train at the university’s facilities. Adams, the Eagles starting quarterback the last three years, announced his immediate transfer to Oregon on Monday. Considered to be the frontrunner to replace Marcus Mariota at QB in Eugene, Adams and the Ducks open play this fall at Autzen versus EWU on Sept 5.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1958 — Boston’s Bill Russell scores 18 points and grabs 41 rebounds to lead the Celtics to a 119-101 victory over the Syracuse Nationals.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com

HERMISTON

Drotzmann signs to play softball at Linfield

Hermiston star inks with D-III Wildcats

By SAM BARBEE
EO Media Group

As an eighth-grader, Abi Drotzmann was showing signs of promise on the softball field. She was starting to mature physically and was developing a strong passion for the game.

“She loved it, she had a passion for it,” Drotzmann’s father, Dave, said. “I didn’t have to push her too hard. So if you can put skill together with passion, you get a great athlete



Hermiston’s Abi Drotzmann tries to slide under a tag in a game last season. Drotzmann signed a National Letter of Intent with Linfield Wednesday.

EO file photo

out of it. She’s gonna be a successful softball player because of that.”

Four years later, surrounded by friends, teammates, coaches, teachers and family, Drotzmann’s passion finally paid off and she made it official

Wednesday, signing her National Letter of Intent to play softball at Linfield College, an NCAA Division III school located in McMinneville, Oregon, about an hour west of Portland.

“I always thought I was going to play softball in college,” Drotzmann said. “And then, my sophomore and junior years I realized how hard it was and the commitment I had to do to my fall teams. Then I got lazy and said ‘I don’t want to do this. It’s too much work.’ Then I realized it was way worth it. It’s gonna be fun.”

Drotzmann joins a softball program that is one of the most successful Division III programs on the west coast and in the country. The Wildcats have won 11 straight Northwest Conference championships, and are picked to win again this season, and have won two national titles since 2007.

Head coach Jackson Vaughn,

See DROTZMANN/2B

Prep Wrestling



EO Media Group file photo

Hermiston’s Sam Colbray (right) holds position during a dual meet against The Dalles in January. Two days later, Colbray experienced the first defeat to an Oregonian in his prep wrestling career. Colbray and others will try to bounce back from defeat at Districts this weekend.

Hardened in defeat

Champion wrestlers take positives from rare losses

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

For more than two years Hans Rockwell listened to the talk, the expectations.

“Everybody was always talking about how Hans Rockwell has never lost, and everybody at our school was always talking about, ‘Oh,

you’re never going to lose.’ And stuff like that,” said the 132-pound Riverside senior.

For more than two years, he didn’t. But Rockwell said it wasn’t the pressure that finally got to him. In fact, there was no pressure at all.

He always knew his day was coming, and so he wasn’t surprised when it finally did on Jan. 25, 2014.

“I always felt like it would happen eventually,” he said of a 10-3 loss to Hood River Valley’s Christian Marquez, who went on to win a 5A state title that season. “I think me not losing made me wrestle worse, to be honest. ... I feel like I lost the hunger a little bit.”

Like Rockwell, who at the end of this month will attempt to join

an elite fraternity of four-time state champions, Hermiston’s Sam Colbray entered his junior season with an undefeated streak that seemed to have no end in sight.

And also like Rockwell, Colbray wasn’t exactly taken aback when his day came on this past Jan. 24.

“It’s just a high school match,” Colbray said of Crook County senior Gunnar Roberts’ 10-5 victory in the 195-pound finals of the Reser’s Tournament of Champions. “It’s not going to do anything with rankings, college, scouting or anything like that. Once we get to college ... it’s minuscule.”

Colbray wrestled that weekend despite an illness that had kept him

See DEFEAT/2B

“I think me not losing made me wrestle worse, to be honest.... I feel like I lost the hunger a little bit.”

— Hans Rockwell,
Riverside wrestler

Schools prep for district finals

East Oregonian

The Class 5A and 4A wrestling district championships will be this weekend while the 3A and 2A/1A schools head for an off week before their own championships the following weekend.

Here is a quick look at what to watch as the action unfolds in this weekend’s brackets.

5A Special District 4

The teams: Hermiston, Pendleton, Hood River Valley, The Dalles, Bend, Mountain View, Redmond, Ridgeview, Summit.

Weights to watch: The 170 and 160-pound classes could feature at least four wrestlers with 20 wins this season. Likely at 170 would be Pendleton senior Terrell Platt (26-11), Hermiston junior Bob Coleman (24-6), Summit junior Jacob Thompson (20-3) and Hood River senior Steven Swafford (20-14). The likely 160 class contenders are Bend senior Justin Vinton (27-4), Redmond junior Hunter Smith (23-11), Hermiston junior Brock McDonough (21-9), and Mountain View senior Toby Arndt (22-13).

Most likely champion: Hermiston junior Sam Colbray at 195 pounds. Colbray is ranked No. 8 in the nation by InterMat Wrestling — the only wrestler at the tournament to make the Top 20 list at any weight.

Moving on: The top four placers in each weight will

See DISTRICTS/2B

NBA

Blazers head to break with win

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 points and 12 rebounds, and the Portland Trail Blazers extended the Los Angeles Lakers’ road losing streak to a franchise-record 11 games with a 102-86 victory Wednesday night.

Wesley Matthews scored 20 points for the Blazers, who won their second straight before heading into the All-Star break.

It was the sixth straight loss overall for the struggling Lakers, who trailed by as many as 23. Los Angeles was hurt late in the third quarter when Nick Young appeared to injure his left ankle on a jumper and did not return.



(AP Photo/Greg Wahl-Stephens)

Portland Trail Blazers’ CJ McCollum (3) shoots against Los Angeles Lakers’ Ed Davis (21) during the second half in Portland on Wednesday.

See BLAZERS/2B

College Basketball

Young elevates Ducks over USC

Oregon wins fourth straight, remains third-place in Pac-12

By CURTIS ZUPKE
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Joseph Young and Oregon knew that USC had lost a lot of close games, and they weren’t going to let Wednesday night’s match-up result in the Trojans’ breakthrough win.

Young scored 26 points to lead Oregon to an 80-75 win. Dillon Brooks and Elgin Cook each scored 15 points as the Ducks (18-7, 8-4 Pac-12) never trailed and won their fourth straight.

Young scored on a drive to give Oregon a 72-62 lead after USC went on a 5-0 run. He made a 3-pointer from the corner.

See DUCKS/2B

